

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A negative electrode active material for use in an alkaline cell characterized by comprising a mixture of a zinc alloy powder for use in a cell and an additional metal, wherein said additional metal is a metal whose trivalent compound is chemically stable at room temperature and atmospheric pressure.

2. A negative electrode active material for use in an alkaline cell characterized by comprising a mixture of a zinc alloy powder for use in a cell and an additional metal incorporated therein in an amount of 50 – 1000 ppm by weight based on the amount of said zinc alloy powder for use in a cell, said additional metal being a metal whose trivalent compound is chemically stable at room temperature and atmospheric pressure.

3. The negative electrode active material for use in an alkaline cell according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein said additional metal is Bi or In.

4. The negative electrode active material for use in an alkaline cell according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein said additional metal is a metallic powder with an average particle size of  $100\mu\text{m}$  or less.

*Pa* 5. The negative electrode active material for use in an alkaline cell according to Claim 3, wherein said additional metal is a metallic powder with an average particle size of  $100\mu\text{m}$  or less.

*Pa* 6. A negative electrode active material for use in an alkaline cell of low gas generation comprising a mixture of a metallic powder and a zinc alloy powder for use in a cell, said mixture being prepared by dry mixing said metallic powder and said zinc alloy powder, the metal of said metallic powder being one whose trivalent compound is chemically stable at room temperature and atmospheric pressure.

7. A method of preparing a negative electrode active material for use in an alkaline cell comprising the step of mixing a zinc alloy powder for use in a cell with an additional metal, said additional metal being a metal whose trivalent compound is chemically stable at room temperature and atmospheric pressure.

8. A method of preparing a negative electrode active material for use in an

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alkaline cell comprising the step of mixing a zinc alloy powder for use in a cell with an additional metal, said additional metal being a metal whose trivalent compound is chemically stable at room temperature and atmospheric pressure, said additional metal being added in an amount of 50 to 1000 ppm by weight based on the weight of the zinc alloy powder for use in a cell.

9. The method of preparing a negative electrode active material for use in an alkaline cell according to Claim 7 or 8, wherein said additional metal is Bi or In.

10. The method of preparing a negative electrode active material for use in an alkaline cell according to Claim 7 or 8, wherein said additional metal is a metallic powder with an average particle size of  $100\mu\text{m}$  or less.

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11. The method of preparing a negative electrode active material for use in an alkaline cell according to Claim 9, wherein said additional metal is a metallic powder with an average particle size of  $100\mu\text{m}$  or less.

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